Development of modified variety of Rajmah by China

304. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has developed a modified variety of pulse 'Rajmah' to challenge Indian produce in international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to safeguard the interest of Indian producers of Rajmah?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) There is no information available on any such variety in the available scientific literature.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Agro-Reforms

305. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture sector is facing a number of problems such as low productivity, floods, decreasing water level, loans at higher rate, adverse market and low private investments;

(b) if so, whether Government have prepared any plan for agro reforms and increasing private investments to bring the country into higher growth rate; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a).to (c) The Government is aware of these problems being faced by farmers in some areas of the country. However, with a view to increase agricultural production, Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy for addressing specific segments of agriculture to ensure higher productivity. These initiatives are in the areas of both cereals and non-cereals crops, horticulture, livestock, fisheries and dairying. Equal emphasis is also given to timely availability of input and an overall thrust towards diversification into higher value produces and plantations. Initiatives taken towards these